

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Ralph Bowers upon receipt of the J.W. Massengill Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

WHEREAS, the laudable work ethic of the farmer is undeniably at the very heart of Tennessee's great tradition of service and volunteerism, and agriculture as an industry is integral to Tennessee's economic well-being as is business and other commercial interests; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected Representatives of the state of Tennessee honor those agriculturists who emerge as leaders in an industry that is crucial to our state and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bowers is one such person who demonstrates excellence in his field and in all areas of his life; and

WHEREAS, to honor him for his commitment to agriculture, as well as to the community, the Greene County Partnership Agribusiness Committee and an alliance of county businesses presented Mr. Bowers with the J.W. Massengill Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award; and

WHEREAS, this Rheatown dairyman is not only dedicated to the success of his own business, but also sacrifices much of himself to help other farmers excel and prosper; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in dairy issues at local and state levels, Mr. Bowers graciously donates his time and energies to the Greene County Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the Greene County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, realizing full well that citizenship entails many duties as well as privileges, Mr. Bowers has epitomized effective public service by means of his hard work in more than one dozen civic and community leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, his affiliations include serving as a member of the Greene County Regional Planning Commission, the agriculture director for Greene County Bank, co-chairman of the Chuckey voting precinct, and former member of the Greene County Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowers and his devoted wife, Brenda, work diligently to promote farm education and understanding by hosting a day on the farm for children in the Greeneville School System; and

WHEREAS, as an innovative and progressive farm family, the Bowers have amassed a proud collection of awards including the 1972 Farmers Home Administration "Farm Family of the Year" award and the Greeneville Rotary Club's "Farmer of the Year" award; and were featured in a 1988 issue of Progressive Farmer for their conservation and no-till practices; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Bowers has proven himself to be an invaluable agriculturist and worthy citizen of Greene County and the state of Tennessee, and he should be recognized for his numerous contributions to farming and the life of his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Mr. Ralph Bowers on receiving the J.W. Massengill Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award; applaud his efforts to better the farming industry and his community; and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Bowers with this final resolving clause deleted from such copy.

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